

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEVADA

Miriam Santana Garcia,

Case No.: 2:21-cv-01711-JAD-EJY

Plaintiff

**Order Dismissing and
Closing Case for Want of Prosecution**

v.

Walmart Inc.,

Defendant

Because nothing had happened in this case since December 20, 2022, on October 2, 2023, the court advised plaintiff Miriam Santana Garcia that her case would be dismissed for want of prosecution if no action was taken by October 12, 2023.¹ That deadline passed with no action by any party, so I dismiss and close this case.

District courts have the inherent power to control their dockets and “[i]n the exercise of that power, they may impose sanctions including, where appropriate . . . dismissal” of a case.² A court may dismiss an action based on a party’s failure to prosecute, failure to obey a court order, or failure to comply with local rules.³ In determining whether to dismiss an action on one of these grounds, the court must consider: (1) the public’s interest in expeditious resolution of litigation; (2) the court’s need to manage its docket; (3) the risk of prejudice to the defendants;

¹ ECF No. 30 (minute order regarding intent to dismiss for want of prosecution).

² *Thompson v. Hous. Auth. of City of Los Angeles*, 782 F.2d 829, 831 (9th Cir. 1986).

³ *See Henderson v. Duncan*, 779 F.2d 1421, 1424 (9th Cir. 1986) (dismissal for lack of prosecution and failure to comply with local rules); *see also* Local Rule 41-1 (authorizing dismissal of civil actions pending for “more than 270 days without any proceeding of record having been taken”).

1 (4) the public policy favoring disposition of cases on their merits; and (5) the availability of less
2 drastic alternatives.⁴

3 The first two factors, the public’s interest in expeditiously resolving this litigation and the
4 court’s interest in managing its docket, weigh in favor of dismissal of the plaintiff’s claims. The
5 third factor, risk of prejudice to defendants, also weighs in favor of dismissal because a
6 presumption of injury arises from the occurrence of unreasonable delay in prosecuting an
7 action.⁵ The fourth factor—the public policy favoring disposition of cases on their merits—is
8 greatly outweighed by the factors favoring dismissal.

9 The fifth factor requires the court to consider whether less drastic alternatives can be used
10 to correct the party’s failure that brought about the court’s need to consider dismissal.⁶ Courts
11 “need not exhaust every sanction short of dismissal before finally dismissing a case, but must
12 explore possible and meaningful alternatives.”⁷ Because this action cannot realistically proceed
13 without the plaintiff moving it forward, the only alternative is to enter a second order setting
14 another deadline. But given that the plaintiff has ignored this case for nearly a year, the
15 likelihood that the second order would prompt action is low, so issuing a second order will only
16 delay the inevitable and further squander the court’s finite resources. So the fifth factor favors
17 dismissal.

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19 ⁴ *Henderson*, 779 F.2d at 1423–24

20 ⁵ *See Anderson v. Air West*, 542 F.2d 522, 524 (9th Cir. 1976).

21 ⁶ *Yourish v. Cal. Amplifier*, 191 F.3d 983, 992 (9th Cir. 1999) (explaining that considering less
22 drastic alternatives *before* the party has disobeyed a court order does not satisfy this factor);
23 *accord Pagtalunan v. Galaza*, 291 F.3d 639, 643 & n.4 (9th Cir. 2002) (explaining that “the
persuasive force of” earlier Ninth Circuit cases that “implicitly accepted pursuit of less drastic
alternatives prior to disobedience of the court’s order as satisfying this element[.]” i.e., like the
“initial granting of leave to amend coupled with the warning of dismissal for failure to
comply[.]” have been “eroded” by *Yourish*).

⁷ *Henderson*, 779 F.2d at 1424.

1 Having thoroughly weighed these dismissal factors, I find that they weigh in favor of
2 dismissal. IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that **this action is DISMISSED** without prejudice
3 for want of prosecution. The Clerk of Court is directed **ENTER JUDGMENT** accordingly and
4 to **CLOSE THIS CASE**.

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7 U.S. District Judge Jennifer A. Dorsey
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October 24, 2023